

March 24, 2016

Volunteer Fire Dept. (VFD) Contracts

The current contracts with each of the VFDs are quite dated. In fact, the contracts were executed fourteen (14) years ago in FY 2002-2003. Staff is evaluating options and working to engage the various fire departments in discussions around recommended changes. It is anticipated these recommendations will be brought before the Board of Commissioners in late spring 2016.

County staff understands and appreciates the value of having volunteer driven fire departments. The various departments and their volunteers work extremely hard to protect the life and property of our citizens. Thus, any recommended changes to the contracts will seek to strike a balance between their independence as non-profit contract agencies and accountability for ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Employee Wellness Clinic – Update

Utilization of the wellness clinic continues to meet expectations. A total of 1,679 visits from employees and covered dependents have occurred since the clinic opened in October 2013. Below please find a breakdown of the average monthly utilization rates:

Total utilization average (Oct '13-Feb '16) = **58**

FY 13-14 avg. (9 months) = **62**

FY 14-15 avg. (12 months) = **59**

FY 15-16 avg. (8 months) = **52**

The total cost to the County for these clinic visits was \$33,580 (\$20 per visit). If these same 1,679 individuals visited a primary care physician, a conservative estimate of the County cost would have been \$125,925 (\$75 per visit). Thus, it is estimated the clinic has generated a minimum hard cost savings of \$92,345 to date.

Staff will continue to monitor the outcomes and costs associated with the clinic and provide updates to the Board.

NC Rural Center Advocacy Event

The NC Rural Center will be hosting an upcoming Rural Advocacy Agenda event at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center on Tuesday, April 5 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Rural Advocacy Agenda is the culmination of a ten (10) month strategic planning process that included numerous listening sessions held across rural North Carolina. County staff attended one of these sessions in Troy several months ago.

The Agenda will layout out a strategic framework for ensuring rural voices are heard as policy decisions are contemplated in Raleigh.

If you have an interest in attending this event please contact Tyler or you can register directly using the link below.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E253150&id=15>

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Good Friday Holiday	County Offices Closed Friday, March 25
Stanly COG Liaison Meeting	Tuesday, March 29 6:30 PM City of Albemarle
Regular Board Meeting	Monday, April 4 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room